

largely by liberals who regard the Vietnam and Watergate stories as the great achievements of their profession. The peak of their ambition is to achieve the fame and wealth of great reporters like David Halberstam and Bob Woodward. But this time it was not Republican administration officials who went to prison. It was Judith Miller, then of the *New York Times* itself.

Interestingly, Bob Woodward himself contradicted Mr. Fitzgerald's statement, made the day that he announced the one indictment he has obtained, of former vice presidential chief of staff Scooter Libby, that Mr. Libby was the first to disclose Ms. Plame's name to a reporter. The press reaction was to turn on Mr. Woodward, who has been covering this administration as a new story rather than as a reprise of Vietnam and Watergate.

Historians may regard it as a curious thing that the left and the press have been so determined to fit current events into templates based on events that occurred 30 to 40 years ago. The people who effectively framed the issues raised by Vietnam and Watergate did something like the opposite; they insisted that Vietnam was not a reprise of World War II or Korea and that Watergate was something different from the operations J. Edgar Hoover conducted for Franklin Roosevelt or John Kennedy. Journalists in the 1940s, '50s and early '60s tended to believe they had a duty to buttress Americans' faith in their leaders and their government. Journalists since Vietnam and Watergate have tended to believe that they have a duty to undermine such faith, especially when the wrong party is in office.

That belief has its perils for journalism, as the Fitzgerald investigation has shown. The peril that the press may find itself in the hot seat, but even more the peril that it will get the story wrong. The visible slaving over the prospect of a Rove indictment is just another item in the list of reasons why the credibility of the "mainstream media" has been plunging. There's also a peril for the political left. Vietnam and Watergate were arguably triumphs for honest reporting. But they were also defeats for America—and for millions of freedom-loving people in the world. They ushered in an era when the political opposition and much of the press have sought not just to defeat administrations but to delegitimize them. The pursuit of Karl Rove by the left and the press has been just the latest episode in the attempted criminalization of political differences. Is there any hope that it might turn out to be the last?

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, as the chairman of the Economic Opportunities Subcommittee under the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I traveled to South Dakota on Sunday, June 18, 2006, to hold a field hearing. Due to the timing of the hearing and return travel, I was unable to participate in votes on Monday, June 19, 2006. I am requesting my absence for this date. I would also like you to note that, should I have been present, I would have voted in the following manner: H.R. 5540—Sergeant Jacob Dan Dones Post Office Designation Act, "yes"; H.R. 5504—Larry Winn, Jr. Post Office Building Designation Act, "yes"; and H. Res. 826—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives

that a National Youth Sports Week should be established, "yes."

TRIBUTE TO LYME-OLD LYME, CONNECTICUT ROBOTICS TEAM— TECHNO-TICKS

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the members of the Lyme-Old Lyme, Connecticut robotics team known as the Techno-Ticks. They are Team 236 and they represent the Dominion Millstone power station.

Mr. Speaker, the United States leads the world in technology and innovation, but the only way we will maintain our leading edge is if our young people dedicate themselves to the study of science and technology. The motivated and talented students at Old Lyme illustrate that America's dominance in the future is in good hands.

The Techno-Ticks recently participated in the USFIRST robotics competition and they demonstrated great enthusiasm and proficiency. The acronym FIRST stands for: For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology. The FIRST competitions began in 1989 and since then student interest has flourished. The number of teams participating has grown over the years from 28 to more than 1,100. The competition involves designing and constructing a robot and it is an exciting and practical way for young people to discover the remarkable and rewarding world of engineering and research.

These competitions are important. Engineering schools and professional societies have warned that we are not educating enough engineers and scientists. Well, that's not the case in Lyme. I visited their school and I watched the Techno-Ticks in action. They understand teamwork, they understand technology and they understand that everything they are learning today will better prepare them for the world of tomorrow. It will be a world they will help shape.

USFIRST celebrates partnerships between school systems, educators, parents and professionals in the various fields that define technically challenging problems. The students implement solutions under simulated real world pressures of time, money and resources. The teams develop decision making, project management and business skills as they solve realistic technical issues such as how to design, construct and remotely operate robotic devices to perform tasks.

They employ gyroscopic control and barrier recognition and avoidance in order to enable the robot to navigate obstacle courses, climb stairs and ramps and lift or throw objects. They also gain experience by raising money to fund their teams; by learning how to communicate with sponsors, team members and their communities; how to negotiate resource issues, and how to transport a robot and a team thousands of miles to compete in 33 regional competitions and a championship event held annually in Atlanta, Georgia. USFIRST participants learn real world skills.

These students have a passion for learning and are eager to help solve our nations' and

the worlds' most pressing problems. I congratulate the Techno-Ticks on their accomplishments and encourage them to continue to pursue knowledge. The lessons they are mastering today will serve them, and our nation, in the world of tomorrow.

HONORING DORE VAN DYKE

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Mrs. Dore Van Dyke, an exceptional woman who is retiring after serving 9 years as the executive director of the Attleboro Arts Museum. I am proud to know Mrs. Van Dyke and to salute her many contributions to the arts community in New England.

She took over the museum as executive director in 1997, shortly after it moved from a small stucco house in Capron Park to a much larger facility on Park Street, as part of the Attleboro downtown revitalization project. Mrs. Van Dyke successfully led the museum through an important phase of growth by improving the museum's finances, expanding educational programs and bringing nationally respected exhibits to its gallery. In addition, she increased the museum's visibility and credibility in New England, making it an energetic arts resource and a respected gallery venue.

Without a doubt, Mrs. Van Dyke's dedicated leadership during the museum's period of growth built a sturdy foundation upon which future leaders can continue to flourish. In her retirement, Mrs. Van Dyke plans to return to her own art as a sculptor and venture into new media.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that the entire House of Representatives joins me in congratulating Mrs. Dore Van Dyke for all she has accomplished and in wishing her the best in her retirement.

ACCOLADES FOR THE 60TH ANNI- VERSARY OF KING ADULYADEJ AS MONARCH OF THAILAND

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD, an article from the *Washington Times* by Sebastian Berger titled, *World's royals fete Thailand's King*. This article describes the celebration of history's longest-reigning monarch, King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand. The celebration of this king's reign will last 3 days and has included the biggest reunion of royal heads of state in decades. I would like to join these world leaders in celebration and tribute to King Adulyadej and in recognition of the anniversary of his ascent to the throne.

King Adulyadej's reign of 60 years has outlived many turbulent times in Thailand and his leadership has survived 17 military coups, 23 different prime ministers and 15 constitutions of Thailand. His soft spoken yet effective manner of advocating for issues important to Thailand has won him admiration and affection from all of his people.